



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LA PORTE COUNTY

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Richard Mrozinski,  
President

Michael Gonder,  
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,  
Member

## MINUTES

### LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE 7-19-17

#### CALL TO ORDER

President Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Auditor Winski called the roll: Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Gonder - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum therefore meeting commenced.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Gonder moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 21, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the June 21st meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

#### CLAIMS

Auditor Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 6-30-2017 - \$1,129,426.22 and then Miscellaneous - \$922,278.35. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

President Mrozinski asked if everyone had a copy of the agenda. Stated Public Comment would be for agenda items only. If the public heard the Code Enforcement Ordinance was going to be discussed, said Ordinance was sent to the Plan Commission who threw it out. There is none – period. Commission is not obligated to allow Public Comment.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. MC - Three questions – In reference to a newspaper article does La Porte County currently have a needle exchange program? President Mrozinski responded not that he knows of but Dennis needs to ask the Health Department. When does the new management at fairgrounds meet? President Mrozinski stated as of that moment no date had been set. The La Porte Courthouse, the white bleed through on the building – when is that going to be fixed? Discussion has been made but no plan as of yet. Dennis thanked the Commission for allowing him to ask the questions.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

George Watkins - Veterans Service Officer - Stated beginning July 21<sup>st</sup>, Fridays only for now, Joe Golec will have an office in the Michigan City Courthouse for veterans who need assistance.

Barb Mossman - Human Resources - Reported on her recent trip to New Orleans for Society for Human Resources conference. Stated the conference was beneficial.

Darlene Hale - IT - Announced the county now has a calendar on the website, Commissioner Gonder had requested this be done to allow the public to know of upcoming meetings. If any other departments have meetings please contact IT and it will be placed on the calendar. Darlene reported to the Commissioners she will be requesting permission to approach the Council on behalf of EMA in the next month or so pertaining to an Emergency Notification System.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **REQUESTS**

Dick Buell - Community Corrections - Requested permission to approach the Council for purchasing a vehicle for Field officer. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Jay Sullivan - County Engineer - Requested permission to approach the Council for appropriation for consulting fees for Weaver Engineering - work done on a Diesel Spill issue in the amount of \$9,051. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

President Mrozinski commented on previous meeting with Leigh Coburn in reference to using the county home for the homeless people in our county. Received a proposal for the barn and 20 acres included - stated the barn is not included and the 20 acres is a swamp. Eighty acres is currently farmed out. That leaves 5 acres surrounding the building. Homeward Bound is requesting money from the county to help with the project but President Mrozinski said if we had the money then the county would still be using it. A village built would have to go through the Plan Commission. There are legal ramifications on the amount of money requested. President Mrozinski asked County Attorney Biege to comment. Attorney Biege stated in the proposal there is a request for some type of a donation to the organization which is a 501(c)(3) corporation and the County cannot give donations to them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Leigh Coburn - Homeward Bound - Commissioner Kora stated over the last few years the county has struggled with funding for the county home. Two applications have been made for tax credit projects for funding only to be denied. Commissioner Kora would like to see details on how Homeward Bound would seek finances for this project. He stated in the past it was 8-9 million dollars to bring the facility up to code. Leigh responded that he was requesting 100 days to see what all needed to be done to get the building working properly. Commissioner Kora asked if he was asking for 100 days to come up with a plan. Leigh said yes. Commissioner Kora asked again if that was all he was asking for at this time. Yes again but the plan PLUS an inspection possibly from the county inspector. Commissioner Kora stated the building is currently for sale as well as the county will still apply for tax credits during this 100 days simultaneously Homeward Bound would need to come up with a plan that would address the issue of funding. Commissioner Kora moved to table request of County Home for 100 days. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Attorney Biege stated a third appraisal is in the works right now and this tabling will not interfere with that appraisal. President Mrozinski stated that is correct. Tabling the request of Homeward Bound taking possession of the county home for the next 100 days. Leigh responded he did not want to spend \$10,000-\$15,000 to get the boiler inspected if the county is not going to follow through with Homeward Bound getting the facility. Commissioner Kora motioned for Attorney Biege to look into the 501(c)(3) group acquiring the facility from the county. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Trowbridge - Paladin - Requested permission to approach the Council for funding. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Kevin Jasinski - RQAW - Requested permission to approach Council for funding for Bridge 186 on 650 W. over Kankakee River. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Attorney Doug Biege - Requested permission to vacate platted road for Armstrongs. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. This would be known as Ordinance 2017-01 for the La Porte County Commissioners.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kora stated the Draft Ordinance pertaining to Code Enforcement Officer was passed to the Plan Commission who has decided not to pursue it any further and just enforce the current codes. Commissioner Gonder echoed what Commissioner Kora stated. Said he made the motion at the Plan Commission and would never support said Draft Ordinance. President Mrozinski reminded everyone that it is summer time, road paving work being done so be careful out there with workers. Next week is the La Porte County Fair. Welcome back Mike Seitz, Economic Development, who has been out with an injury.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.